

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

September 2011 – Week 4

Air Date: September 25 – October 1 (Sunday – Saturday)



TITLE: WORLDWIDE WHIRLYBIRD

SEPTEMBER 1982 AND TEXANS LAND IN THE HISTORY BOOKS.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

SEPTEMBER 29, 1982. DALLAS. BEFORE A 1000 SPECTATORS AT CITY HALL, A SMALL HELICOPTER CALLED THE SPIRIT OF TEXAS TOUCHES DOWN, COMPLETING THE FIRST HELICOPTER TRIP AROUND THE WORLD.

IT'S PILOT, ROSS PEROT, JR. – SON OF THE TEXAS MILLIONAIRE – HAD SET OUT TO BEAT AN AUSTRALIAN PILOT TRYING TO CIRCLE THE GLOBE IN A YEAR. PEROT TOOK ONLY 29 DAYS.

THE CHOPPER'S 56 REFUELING STOPS INCLUDED AN ESKIMO VILLAGE AND A STORM-TOSSED SHIP IN THE NORTH PACIFIC. FLYING OVER 26 COUNTRIES, THE HELICOPTER WAS NOT ALLOWED TO LAND IN THE SOVIET UNION, AND WAS MET BY ARMED MOBS IN EGYPT AND BURMA.

THE SPIRIT OF TEXAS WENT 'ROUND THE WORLD 29 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Website, accessed 8/28/08

<http://collections.nasm.si.edu/code/emuseum.asp?profile=objects&quicksearch=A19840195000&newstyle=single>

“Made to be broken” by Ron Bower, Aviation Today, Wed. Sept. 1, 2004; accessed 8/28/08

<http://www.aviationtoday.com/regions/usa/1735.html>

AP News Story (viewed in Paris News September 28, 1982)

AP News Story (viewed in Galveston Daily News, October 1, 1982)

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

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